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**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

# Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/535,636

**Applicant(s)**

STRAETMANS ET AL.

**Examiner**

Thomas A. Hollweg

**Art Unit**

2879

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 December 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 8-19 and 21-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 8-19 and 21-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 July 2008 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Acknowledgement of Amendment***

1. Applicant's Amendment, received December 19, 2009, is acknowledged. Claim 7 is canceled. No claims are added. Claims 1-6, 8-19 and 21-23 are currently pending.
2. Corrections for minor informalities are acknowledged. The previous objections to claims 1 and 6 are withdrawn.
3. Amendments to claims 1 and 9 are acknowledged. The 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejections of claims 1 and 9 are withdrawn.

### ***Specification***

4. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:
  - a. Claims 1, 9, 10, 11 and 21, the specification does not describe an electrode that extends through a feed through opening in the end closure member.Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Drawings***

5. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the electrode that extends through a feed through opening in the end closure member, of claims 1, 9, 10, 11 and 21, must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.
6. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended

replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

***Claim Objections***

7. The following claims are objected to because of the following informalities:
    - b. Claim 9, "the end closure unit" lacks antecedent basis. It is assumed that this refers to the end closure member.
    - c. Claims 10, 11 and 18, "the end closure device" lacks antecedent basis. It is assumed that this refers to the end closure member.
    - d. Claim 15, "the electrode" lacks antecedent basis. It is assumed that this refers to the feed-through electrode of claim 11.
- Appropriate correction is required.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112, First Paragraph***

8. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

9. **Claims 1-6, 8-19 and 21-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph,** as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.
10. **With regard to claims 1 and 9,** the disclosure and drawings, as originally filed, does not describe an electrode extending through the feed-through opening and is gas-tight connected to the end closure member.
11. **With regard to claim 10,** the disclosure and drawings, as originally filed, does not describe closing the feed-through opening by inserting a feed-trough electrode through the feed-through opening and gas-tight connecting the feed-through electrode to the end closure device.
12. **With regard to claim 11,** the disclosure and drawings, as originally filed, does not describe at least one feed-through electrode that extends through the feed-through opening and seals the feed-through opening via a gas-tight connection to the end closure member.
13. **With regard to claim 15,** the disclosure and drawings, as originally filed, does not describe an electrode that comprise materials that are needed for welding, laser

welding, resistance welding, soldering, brazing bonding with adhesive materials, primary shaping, sintering, sealing or any combination thereof.

14. **With regard to claim 21**, the disclosure and drawings, as originally filed, does not describe an electrode that extends through the opening in the cap.

15. Examiner notes that the original specification describes a feed-through 8 with an electrode (page 9, line 15), and the original drawings show a feed-through 8, with an electrode attached where the electrode is shaded differently from the feed-through 8.

16. **Claims 18 and 19 are further rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph**, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

17. **With regard to claim 18**, claim 11 requires that "at least one coating layer and a sealant are located and gas-tight connected between the end part of the discharge vessel and the end closure member," while claim 18 requires that the end closure member (see objection above) is made of a functionally graded cermet material. The limitation of claim 18 is described in specification, page 7, lines 11 to 17 and page 9, lines 13-21 and shown in figure 3. However, the embodiment described and shown has only a coating layer (4a) between the end part of the discharge vessel (1) and the end closure member (9). Therefore, the embodiments claimed in claims 18 and 19 were not disclosed or shown in the specification and drawings originally filed.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

18. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

**19. Claims 1-6, 10, 21 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bhalla, U.S. Patent No. 4,291,250, in view of Juengst, U.S. Patent No. 6,194,832 B1.**

20. **With regard to claim 1**, in figure 5, Bhalla discloses a high-pressure burner comprising: at least one end closure member (10), and a discharge vessel (44) that includes at least one end part (46) and a discharge cavity, wherein at least one coating layer (32) and a sealant (34) are located and gas-tight connected between the end part (46) of the discharge vessel (44) and the end closure member (10), the end closure member (10) includes a feed-through opening (16) for filling the discharge cavity (col. 5, lines 19-31).

21. Bhalla does not expressly disclose that an electrode extends through the feed through opening and is gas-tight connected to the end closure member.

22. Juengst, in figures 2, 3a and 3b, teaches a high-pressure burner with a feed through opening (22) where an electrode (15, 16, 20) extends through the feed through opening (22) and is gas-tight connected to the end closure member (col. 7, lines 6-17 & 27).

23. At the time of invention, it would have been obvious for a person having ordinary skill in the art to construct the Bhalla high pressure burner where an electrode extends through the feed through opening and is gas-tight connected to the end closure member, as taught by Juengst, so that the filling of the lamp and the, setting of the

electrode and the sealing of the lamp can be done in one step (Juengst, col. 4, lines 15-21).

24. **With regard to claim 2**, in figure 5, Bhalla discloses that wherein the gas-tight bonding of the coating layer (32) and the sealant (34) to the discharge vessel (44) and the end closure member (10) is stronger than a direct gas-tight bonding of the sealant to the end closure member and discharge vessel (col. 2, lines 24-28).

25. **With regard to claim 3**, in figure 5, Bhalla discloses that the coating layer has an expansion coefficient in the range between  $4 \cdot 10^{-6}$  and  $12 \cdot 10^{-6} \text{ K}^{-1}$  (inherent of the materials (col. 6, lines 1-9)).

26. **With regard to claim 4**, in figure 5, Bhalla discloses that the coating layer (32) is chemically resistant towards oxides and iodides (inherent of the materials (col. 6, lines 1-9)).

27. **With regard to claim 5**, in figure 5, Bhalla discloses that the coating layer is of a material comprising at least Mo (col. 6, lines 1-9).

28. **With regard to claim 6**, in figure 5, Bhalla discloses that the coating layer (32) covers the at least one end part (46) (col. 5, lines 25-31).

29. **With regard to claim 10**, in figures 1-5, Bhalla discloses a method of manufacturing a gas-tight high-pressure burner that includes an end closure member (10) a electrode (20, 22) and a discharge vessel (44) (col. 5, lines 19-31), comprising: coating at least one of the end closure member (10) and the discharge vessel (44) with a coating layer (32) (col. 5, lines 25-28), gas tight connecting the end closure member to the discharge vessel using a sealant (col. 3, lines 24-50).



30. Bhalla does not expressly disclose filling the discharge vessel with an ionizable filling through a feed-through opening in the end closure member, and closing the feed-through opening by inserting a feed-through electrode through the feed-through opening and gas-tight connecting the feed-through electrode to the end closure device.

31. Juengst, in figures 2, 3a and 3b, teaches sealing a high-pressure burner by filling the discharge vessel with an ionizable filling through a feed-through opening (22) in the end closure member (11), and closing the feed-through opening (22) by inserting a feed-through electrode (15, 16, 20) through the feed-through opening (22) and gas-tight connecting the feed-through electrode (15, 16, 20) to the end closure device (11) (col. 4, lines 16-20; col. 7, lines 14-17 & 27).

32. At the time of invention, it would have been obvious for a person having ordinary skill in the art to construct the high-pressure burner with the method of Bhalla, further using the method steps of filling the discharge vessel with an ionizable filling through a feed-through opening in the end closure member, and closing the feed-through opening by inserting a feed-through electrode through the feed-through opening and gas-tight connecting the feed-through electrode to the end closure device, as taught by Juengst, so that the filling of the lamp and the, setting of the electrode and the sealing of the lamp can be done in one step (Juengst, col. 4, lines 15-21). With regard to claim 21, in figure 5, Bhalla discloses that

33. **With regard to claim 21**, in figures 1-5, Bhalla discloses a method of method of assembling a lamp comprising: first sealing at least one cap (10) to a discharge vessel (44), the cap comprising an opening (16), the sealing process comprising increasing

temperature and/or pressure within the vessel and using a sealant (34) and a coating (32) (col. 3, lines 24-50).

34. Bhalla does not expressly disclose after sealing, filling the vessel with at least one desired salt and/or at least one desired filling gas, through the opening; positioning at least one electrode in the opening after the vessel is filled, such that the electrode extends through the opening and into the discharge vessel; and second sealing the electrode in the opening using a technique resulting in substantially less temperature and pressure increase within the vessel than was required by the first sealing so that the sealing and coating from the first sealing are not damaged by temperature and pressure from contents of the vessel.

35. Juengst, in figures 2, 3a and 3b, teaches a method of sealing a lamp comprising filling the vessel with at least one desired salt and/or at least one desired filling gas, through the opening (22); positioning at least one electrode (15,16, 20) in the opening (22) after the vessel is filled, such that the electrode extends through the opening and into the discharge vessel; and sealing the electrode (15, 16, 20) in the opening (22) using a technique resulting in substantially less temperature and pressure increase within the vessel (col. 4, lines 16-20; col. 7, lines 6-17 & 27).

36. At the time of invention, it would have been obvious for a person having ordinary skill in the art to construct the lamp using the Bhalla method steps and additionally using the Juengst method steps of after sealing, filling the vessel with at least one desired salt and/or at least one desired filling gas, through the opening; positioning at least one electrode in the opening after the vessel is filled, such that the electrode extends

through the opening and into the discharge vessel; and second sealing the electrode in the opening using a technique resulting in substantially less temperature and pressure increase within the vessel than was required by the first sealing so that the sealing and coating from the first sealing are not damaged by temperature and pressure from contents of the vessel.

37. **With regard to claim 23**, in figure 5, Bhalla discloses that the coating layer (32) is of a material comprising at least W (col. 6, lines 1-9).

38. **Claims 9 and 11-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bhalla, in view of Juengst and of Hendricx et al., WO 00/67294.**

39. **With regard to claim 9**, in figure 5, Bhalla discloses a discharge vessel (44) that includes an end part (46) and a discharge cavity, an end closure member (10) that includes a feed-through opening (16) for filling the discharge cavity, wherein at least one coating layer (32) and sealant (34) are located and gas-tight connected between the end part (46) of the discharge vessel and the end closure member (10) (col. 5, lines 19-31).

40. Bhalla does not expressly disclose **1)** that an electrode extends through the feed through opening and is gas-tight connected to the end closure member, **2)** nor does it expressly disclose that the discharge vessel is in an automotive headlamp.

41. **1)** Juengst, in figures 2, 3a and 3b, teaches a high-pressure burner with a feed through opening (22) where an electrode (15, 16, 20) extends through the feed through opening (22) and is gas-tight connected to the end closure member (col. 7, lines 6-17 & line 27).

42. At the time of invention, it would have been obvious for a person having ordinary skill in the art to construct the Bhalla high pressure burner where an electrode extends through the feed through opening and is gas-tight connected to the end closure member, as taught by Juengst, so that the filling of the lamp and the, setting of the electrode and the sealing of the lamp can be done in one step (Juengst, col. 4, lines 15-21).

43. **2)** Hendricx, in figure 1, teaches a lamp comprising a gas-tight high-pressure burner (3) that is arranged in an automotive headlamp unit (page 2, lines 8-27).

44. At the time of invention, it would have been obvious for a person having ordinary skill in the art to construct the lamp disclosed by Bhalla, as modified by Juengst, in an automotive headlamp unit, as taught by Hendricx, because it has excellent color rendering and long life, characteristics making it particularly good for use in a complex shape headlamp.

45. **With regard to claim 11**, in figure 5, Bhalla discloses a lamp that includes a gas-tight high-pressure burner, the burner including: at least one metal halide discharge vessel (44) that includes at least one end part (46) and a discharge cavity; at least one end closure member (10); at least one sealant (34) between the end closure member (10) and the end part (46); at least one feed-through opening (16) in the end closure member (10) for high-pressure filling the discharge cavity, at least one electrode (20, 22), and at least one gas-tight connected coating layer (32) covering one or more of the end part (46) of the discharge vessel (44) and the end closure device (10) (col. 5, lines 19-31), gas tight bonding the end closure member (10) and the discharge vessel (44)

via the coating being stronger than gas-tight bonding of the end closure member and the discharge vessel via the sealant (col. 2, lines 24-28) .

46. Bhalla does not expressly disclose **1)** that the electrode is a feed-through electrode that extends through the feed-through opening and seals the feed-through opening via a gas-tight connection to the end closure member, **2)** nor does it expressly disclose that the lamp is in an automotive headlamp.

47. **1)** Juengst, in figures 2, 3a and 3b, teaches a high-pressure burner with a feed through opening (22) where a feed-through electrode (15, 16, 20) extends through the feed-through opening (22) and seals the feed-through opening (22) via a gas-tight connection to the end closure member (col. 7, lines 6-17 & line 27).

48. At the time of invention, it would have been obvious for a person having ordinary skill in the art to construct the Bhalla high pressure burner where the electrode is feed-through electrode that extends through the feed through opening and seals the feed-through opening via a gas-tight connection to the end closure member, as taught by Juengst, so that the filling of the lamp and the, setting of the electrode and the sealing of the lamp can be done in one step (Juengst, col. 4, lines 15-21).

49. **2)** Hendricx, in figure 1, teaches a lamp comprising a gas-tight high-pressure burner (3) that is arranged in an automotive headlamp unit (page 2, lines 8-27).

50. At the time of invention, it would have been obvious for a person having ordinary skill in the art to construct the lamp disclosed by Bhalla, as modified by Juengst, in an automotive headlamp unit, as taught by Hendricx, because it has excellent color

rendering and long life, characteristics making it particularly good for use in a complex shape headlamp.

51. **With regard to claim 12**, in figure 5, Bhalla discloses that the coating layer has an expansion coefficient in the range between  $4 \cdot 10^{-6}$  and  $12 \cdot 10^{-6} \text{ K}^{-1}$  for temperatures in the range of 298 K to 2174 K (inherent of the materials (col. 6, lines 1-9)).

52. **With regard to claim 13**, in figure 5, Bhalla discloses that the coating layer (32) is chemically resistant towards oxides and iodides (inherent of the materials (col. 6, lines 1-9)).

53. **With regard to claim 14**, in figure 5, Bhalla discloses that the coating layer is of a material comprises a material selected from the group comprising at least W, Mo, and/or Pt (col. 6, lines 1-9).

54. **With regard to claim 15**, in figure 5, Bhalla discloses that the sealant and Juengst teaches that the electrode comprise materials that are needed for welding, laser welding, resistance welding, soldering, brazing bonding with adhesive materials, primary shaping, sintering, sealing or any combination thereof (Bhalla, col. 3, lines 26-27; Juengst, col. 4, line 65 – col. 5, line 3).

55. **With regard to claim 16**, The Examiner notes that the claim limitation “the electrode is introduced into the feed-through opening after the discharge vessel is filled limitation” is drawn to a process of manufacturing which is incidental to the claimed apparatus. It is well established that a claimed apparatus cannot be distinguished over the prior art by a process limitation. Consequently, absent a showing of an unobvious difference between the claimed product and the prior art, the subject product-by-

process claim limitation has been considered, but not patentably distinct over Bhalla and Juengst (see MPEP 2113). The Examiner notes further that Juengst teaches that the electrode is introduced into the feed-through opening after the discharge vessel is filled (col. 4, lines 16-21).

56. **With regard to claim 17**, in figure 5, Bhalla discloses that the feed-through opening (16) has an outer cross section area and an inner cross section area nearer the discharge cavity, and the outer cross section area is greater than or equal to the inner cross section area (col. 5, line 23).

57. **With regard to claim 18**, in figure 5, Bhalla, Juengst and Hendricx disclose all of the limitations, as discussed in the rejection of claim 11 above.

58. Additionally, Juengst, in figure 2, teaches a high-pressure lamp where the end closure member (11) is made of a functionally graded cermet material including first and second materials denominated A and B arranged such that, in select portions, concentration of compound A substantially increases where component B decreases causing gradients of both A and B, while an outer layer has a constant concentration of A and B (col. 5, line 41 – col. 6, line 41).

59. At the time of invention, it would have been obvious for a person having ordinary skill in the art to construct the headlight of claim 11, where the end closure member is made of a functionally graded cermet material including first and second materials denominated A and B arranged such that, in select portions, concentration of compound A substantially increases where component B decreases causing gradients of both A and B, while an outer layer has a constant concentration of A and B, as taught by

Juengst. This type of non-glass melt seal increases the lifetime of the lamp by maintaining a vacuum capable of withstanding high temperatures and not subject to corrosive attack by the fill within the discharge vessel, as taught by Juengst (col. 2, lines 55-61).

60. **With regard to claim 19**, in figure 2, Juengst discloses that compound A comprises  $Al_2O_3$  and compound B comprises Mo (col. 2, line 62 - col. 3, line 1).

**61. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bhalla and Juengst, as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Mittler, U.S. Patent No. 6,624,576 B1.**

62. **With regard to claim 8**, Bhalla and Juengst teach or disclose all of the limitations, except they do not expressly disclose that a cross-section of the feed through opening varies along a longitudinal axis of the end closure member.

63. Mittler, in figure 1, teaches a high-pressure burner where a cross-section of the feed through opening varies along a longitudinal axis of the end closure member, so that the lead in electrode structure sits securely when inserted into the feed-through opening (col. 3, lines 36-49).

64. At the time of invention, it would have been obvious for a person having ordinary skill in the art to construct the Bhalla and Juengst high-pressure burner where a cross-section of the feed through opening varies along a longitudinal axis of the end closure member, so that the lead in electrode structure sits securely when inserted into the feed-through opening.



65. **Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bhalla and Juengst, as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Sobieski, U.S. Patent No. 4,110,657.**

66. **With regard to claim 22**, Bhalla and Juengst teach or disclose all of the limitations, except they do not expressly disclose that the coating layer is of a material comprising at least Pt.

67. Sobieski, in figure 1, teaches a high-pressure burner (11) having an end portion sealing member (22) with a Pt coating to avoid corrosion from the gas fill (col. 3, lines 33-41).

68. At the time of invention, it would have been obvious for a person having ordinary skill in the art to construct the Bhalla and Juengst high-pressure burner, of claim 1, where the coating layer is of a material comprising at least Pt, so that the end closure member is protected from corrosion from the gas fill, as taught by Sobieski.

#### ***Response to Arguments***

69. Applicant's arguments have been considered but are moot in view of the new grounds for rejection.

#### ***Conclusion***

70. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP

§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

71. A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

72. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas A. Hollweg whose telephone number is (571) 270-1739. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 7:30am-5:00pm E.S.T..

73. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nimesh Patel can be reached on (571) 272-2457. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

74. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a

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USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/TH/

/NIMESHKUMAR D. PATEL/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2879